

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2481

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG IEA EEC TECH
SUBJECT: BRUNNER VISIT TO WASHINGTON: ENERGY AND NUCLEAR AIMS

1. SUMMARY: GUIDO BRUNNER, EC COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, TOLD ME MARCH 15 THAT HE HOPES ACCOMPLISH THREE THINGGS DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT MARCH 17-18. HE ALSO RAMBLED ON ABOUT NON-PROLIFERATION PROBLEMS, DROPPING NAMES AS HE WENT, BUT NOT GIVING ME CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT IT ALL ADDED UP TO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WASHINGTON BRUNNER HOPES TO:

A. OBTAIN MOVEMENT ON SUPPLY OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) FOR GERMANY, PARTICULARLY NUKEM. COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE STRSSED TO HIM URGENCY OF OBTAINING HEU, ALLEGING THAT MAINTENANCE OF EMPLOYMENT IS NOW AT STAKE. NUKEN IS ALSO SAID TO BE CONCERNED THAT FURTHER DELAYS WILL AMONGST OTHER THINGS PRECLUDE THEIR MEETING DELIVERY DATES PURSUANT TO GE
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CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF FUEL ELEMENTS TO VALLE SITOS REACTOR IN CALIFORNIA. BRUNNER SAYS CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS ALSO MENTIONED TO HIM CONCERN OVER HOLD-UP ON HEU LICENCES FROM THE US.

B. REACH AGREEMENT ON ENHANCED R&D COOPERATION IN FRAME-
WORK OF IEA. NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT AND COAL GASIFICATION

ARE AREAS IN WHICH BRUNNER APPEARS TO BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED. HE SAID THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH COAL BOARD IT HAD BEEN ARGUED THAT INDUSTRY CANNOT AFFORD ALL OF RESEARCH NEEDED. HE, BRUNNER, BELIEVES THAT A COMMUNITY SPONSORED AND PARTLY FUNDED GASIFICATION PILOT PROJECT IS POSSIBLE. HE WOULD HOPE WE WOULD COOPERATE UNDER IEA UMBRELLA.

C. REAH AN UNDERSTANDING ON REGULAR US-EC CONSULTATIONS ABOUT ENERGY AND RELATED PROBLEMS AS WELL AS OBTAIN RECOGNITION THAT COMMUNITY SHOULD PARTICIPATE AS SUCH IN ANY REEVALUATION OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND THE USE OF PLUTONIUM FOR REACTOR FUELS.

3. BRUNNER INTIMATED THAT AS RESULT HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH TONY BENN, LONG DELAYED \$500 MILLION COMMUNITY LENDING PROGRAM FOR ITALIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WILL BE APPROVED AT ENERGY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 29.

4. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN CONVERSATION WITH BRUNNER SOME TWO WEEKS AGO HAD INDICATED ON ONE HAND THAT HE SHARED US CONCERN ABOUT PROLIFERATION DANGER BUT ON OTHER HAND HE DID NOT SEE HOW EXISTING CONTRACTS, PRESUMABLY WITH BRAZIL, COULD BE BROKEN. BRUNNER QUOTED SCHMIDT AS SAYING IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO LOOK AT PROBLEM OF PROVIDING NUCLEAR ENERGY TO LDCS "FROM LDC POINT OF VIEW IN LONG TERM", I.E., FOR 20-YEAR TIME FRAME (WHAT THAT MEANS, IF ANYTHING, ESCAPES ME).

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5. BRUNNER SAID THAT BEFORE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON HE WILL TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TO GET AN UP-TO-DATE READING ON GENSCHER'S TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE.

6. BRUNNER SAID HERMES HAD RECENTLY VISITED PARIS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUTOU ABOUT ASPECTS OF NON-PROLIFERATION PROBLEM, BRUNNER ALLEGES THAT FOR FIRST TIME FRENCH HINTED THAT THERE MIGHT AFTER ALL BE A ROLE FOR THE COMMUNITY ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUE VIS-A-VIS ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING FACILITIES. BRUNNER ALLEGED, HOWEVER, THAT BREEDER TECHNOLOGY SHOULD NOT BE CONTROLLED AS SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY, WAS INCONSISTENT WITH OTHER FRENCH POSITIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUS BACKWARD STEP WERE GERMANY TO DECIDE TO LEAVE URENCO AND TO GO IT ALONE ON ENRICHMENT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MEET EXTERNAL SUPPLY COMMITMENTS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM.

7. BRUNNER SAID DISTINCTION MADE BY SOME BETWEEN NUCLEAR

WEAPON STATES AND NON-WEAPON STATES IS ESSENTIALLY
INVALID IN GERMAN CASE BECAUSE IN POINT OF FACT GERMAN
NUCLEAR INDUSTRY AND TECNOLOGY WAS IN MAY RESPECTS
FURTHER DEVELOPED THAN WERE FRENCH OR BRITISH NUCLEAR
INDUSTRIES. NOR WERE SCH DISTINCTIONS COMPATIBLE WITH
EURATOM TREATY PROVISIONS RE NUCLEAR COMMON MARKET.

8. FINALLY, BRUNNER TOLD ME THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS
PEOPLE TO BE FULLY OPEN TO IAEA AND TO FACILITATE ANY
INSPECTIONS THEY WISHED CARRY OUT. HE DID NOT, HE SAID,
WANT HIS PEOPLE "NIT-PICKING" BUT ON OTHER HAND HE HOPED
IAEA WOULD CONCENTRATE ON PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AND NOT ON
TRYING TO ESTABLISH JURIDICAL PRECEDENTS.

9. PROTECT BRUNNER AS SOURCE FOR PARAS 3-8. HINTON

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